

REMARKS

Claims 4-12 and 15-19 are presented for further examination. Claims 4 and 17 have been amended, and claim 20 has been canceled.

In the Office Action mailed August 12, 2004, the Examiner noted that claims 1-15 have been renumbered as claims 4-20 inasmuch as previous claims 1-3 were canceled. Applicant has adopted the modified claim numbering as set forth by the Examiner.

The Examiner has not indicated that the certified copy of the foreign application has been received. As applicant noted in the prior Amendment, the certified priority document should have been received directly from WIPO inasmuch as this case was filed from a prior Patent Cooperation Treaty case. If this document has not been received by the Examiner, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner notify applicant of such.

Turning to the merits, claims 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Klank et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,226,337 of record). Claim 5 was rejected as obvious over Klank et al. in view of Ikeda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,506,836 of record). Claims 17-19 were rejected as obvious over Klank et al. in view of Ikeda et al. Claim 20 was objected to but found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to included all of the limitations of the base claim. Claims 7-12 and 15-16 were allowed.

Applicant has amended claim 17 to include the limitations of allowable claim 20. Hence, claim 17 is now allowable claim 20 rewritten into independent format and including all of the limitations of the base claim. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 17-19 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 4 has been amended to now recite the means for correcting each distortion according to temporal window shifting corrections performed respectively for a symbol associated with the distortion. In the present invention, window shifting is a temporal shifting in

the time domain, not a frequency shift. In contrast, Klank et al. describe, particularly at column 10, lines 47-65 and column 11, lines 1-3 and lines 22-27, which were cited by the Examiner, a frequency shift in the frequency domain and not a temporal shift.

More particularly, Klank et al. describe a filtering that takes place on several symbols. The formula in Klank et al. shows how to average the derivations, in amplitude and in phase, on several symbols for a given frequency position. This is acceptable only if the FFT windows are distant from the symbol period. If a symbol is shifted with t , the frequency carrier f_k will be multiplied by $\exp(j.2 f_k.t)$. This term, which should be compensated before making an average on several symbols, should be present in Klank et al. if there was a temporal shift of the analysis window. However, this term never appears in Klank et al.. Hence, in Klank et al., the temporal windows are changed only over a set of symbols (=frames) which explains why there is no compensation in Klank et al. of the temporal shift. In contrast, in the present invention, as set forth at page 9, lines 15-17, there is a description of each term corresponding to an absolute position as expressed "in time units of the analysis window." Further on page 10, lines 4-7, the position of the analysis window is described as being "determined at the beginning and readjusted from time to time."

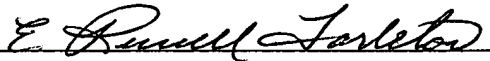
In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that claim 4 and dependent claims 5 and 6 are clearly allowable over Klank et al. taken alone or in any combination with Klank et al. and Ikeda et al.

In the event the Examiner disagrees or finds minor informalities that can be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is urged to contact applicant's undersigned representative by telephone at (206) 622-4900 in order to expeditiously resolve prosecution of

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this application. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing this case to issuance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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